

REPORT: 5<sup>TH</sup> MIDTERM CONFERENCE OF RN 11  
SOCIOLOGY OF EMOTIONS

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*Berlin, 11-13 October 2012*

The conference was jointly organized with the Center for the History of Emotions at Max Planck Institute for Human Development (MPI) in Berlin and the Cluster of Excellence “Languages of Emotions” at Free University Berlin. We received great support from both institutions: Christian von Scheve (Free University) and Benno Gammerl, Bettina Hitzer and Anja Laukötter (all three: MPI) joined Helena Flam and Jochen Kleres to form the organizing committee which selected the submitted abstracts. Christian also provided support by having several of his assistants help out during the conference. MPI let us use its magnificent premises equipped with its own canteen and provided excellent help through some of its administrative staff. Benno Gammerl took great care of organizational matters at MPI.

Participants were welcomed by two student assistants of MPI and could register on the morning of the first conference day. The conference was opened by brief introductions from Helena Flam as the coordinator of RN 11 and from Benno Gammerl as representative of MPI.

We had a total of 68 abstract submissions. The organizing committee made a selection and after some last minute cancellations we ended up with 49 presentations.

Participants came from all kinds of backgrounds. Due to the cooperative nature of this midterm conference, this time we also had a number of presentations by historians. Presenters were currently based in Spain, Ireland, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Finland, Poland, Belarus, the UK, Denmark, Sweden, Cyprus, Greece, Australia, Israel, Belgium, and the US. In addition, they also represented national backgrounds in France, Latvia, Russia, Lithuania, and Serbia. We were very pleased to find so many countries represented among the participants, even though some countries were nevertheless stronger represented than others. Unfortunately, however, some cancellations were also because presenters did not manage to receive any travel subsidies. RN 11 is not in a position to support participants from less wealthy countries or PhD-students. This limits the network’s ability to actively increase the diversity among its members/participants.

Having said this, we were also joined by many scholars from MPI, institutions of higher education in Berlin and in Leipzig. In effect we often had more than 50 participants in our sessions.

Among the new topics covered on the conference were “Emotions and the Law,” “Post-Atrocities Emotions,” “Specific Emotions,” and “Emergence and Reproduction of Groups and Collectivities.” Unfortunately, balancing the number of submitted and selected papers with practical-organizational considerations meant that we had to organize some parallel session. This meant that not all presentations could be heard by all participants. Please see the attached program below for more details.

One innovation was that we were able to invite keynote speakers. This was Deborah B. Gould from the University of California Santa Cruz. In her keynote address she talked about the concept of political hope and analyzed its role in two presidential election campaigns in the US. She presented a multi-faceted picture of the e.g. mobilizing or demobilizing potentials of hope, distinguished different types of political hopes and discussed different political stances towards this emotion and finally, analyzed various sources of hope and their changes over time. Cas Wouters (University of Utrecht/Universiteit van Amsterdam) provided comments on her talk. Daniel Schönplflug (Centre Marc Bloch at Humboldt University Berlin) did a magnificent job of chairing the ensuing debate and keeping it constructive.

The second half of the keynote session consisted of a number of statements from individual scholars on the past, present and future of emotion research in sociology, history and beyond. Daniel Schönplflug also chaired this part of the keynote session and opened the second half by presenting a number of focal issues, such as the sustainability of the current turn towards emotions as well as the shape of interdisciplinarity and interculturality. Helmut Kuzmics (University of Graz) provided the center piece of this part of the session with a longer lead statement reflecting on the long past of sociological and historical emotion research, the recent emotional turn, suggesting what (emotionalized) sociological explanations should look like and arguing that emotion research will be successful if it manages to become fully integrated into general research programs, making itself invisible as a specialized sub-discipline. This was followed by shorter, 3-minutes statements: Margit Pernau (MPI) emphasized the necessity to study not only ‘simple’ but also complex emotions, for instance friendship. Bettina Hitzer (MPI) raised the issue of emotions’ materiality—their link to the body, to space and material objects. Åsa Wettergren (University of Gothenburg) argued for undoing the dualism between emotion and reason. Jochen Kleres (University of Leipzig) cautioned against a trend to make neurobiological findings a new basis of social emotion research. Finally, Helena Flam (University of Leipzig) drew the attention to the critical roots of the sociology of emotions and argued that it should adopt a stronger focus on the powerful rather than analyzing the powerless only. Helena assembled all these statements

and had them turned into a neatly laid-out booklet which was then distributed to the members of RN 11 by email.

Overall the quality of presentations was very high. We enjoyed a lively, intense and constructive discussion atmosphere. The interdisciplinary character of the conference, including many historians, no doubt contributed to this.

We also enjoyed two informal dinner evenings at nearby restaurants. On one of these occasions, our colleague Jocelyn Pixley organized a pre-launch reception to celebrate the upcoming publication of the volume “New Perspectives on Emotions in Finance” which she edited and which forms the third volume in the network’s publication series within only three years. Helmut Kuzmics was so kind to present the volume to the other participants.

It was critically noted by several participants and especially by our external guests that, unfortunately, we were not able to subsidize social functions, despite the significance that informal interactions have for the scholarly success of any such conference. This limitation was due to restrictions newly imposed by ESA.

#### *Business Meeting*

After the last session, the network had a business meeting. The following issues were covered during this:

##### 1. Election

The network’s co-founder Helena Flam has served as its coordinator for many years. As she announced during the last ESA conference in Geneva, she now wanted to clear this position for a new incumbent and was therefore not available for re-election. The following people were elected as the network’s new board:

- a. Jochen Kleres Coordinator
- b. Stina Bergman Blix, First Vice Coordinator
- c. Sylvia Terpe, Second Vice Coordinator
- d. Juha Klemela, Webpage responsible
- e. Stephanie Baker, Twitter Responsible
- f. External Representative: Cécile Vermot

In the name of the entire network, the new board would like to express their sincere gratitude to Helena Flam for her essential contributions over many years to making this network such a success. We feel honored to have the opportunity to continue her work and trust that she will keep playing a vital part in our network.

##### 2. Finances

Membership fees, €500, left from last year, €200, left from this year, €200, new money from ESA 2013/14, €1500.

3. Upcoming conference Torino
  - a. We will send out a cfp that covers the topics from this midterm and includes a couple of additional ones, namely : space, objects and emotions; mediated emotions, morality, values and emotions, gestures and emotions (art, history, visual)
  - b. There will be joint sessions with the RN Sociology of Religion, RN Sociology of Sports, RN Qualitative Methods, and RN Social Movements.
4. Next midterm

We discussed the idea to have our next midterm (2014) in Greece, that is possibly on Crete. Nicolas Demertzis would be willing to organize this and is currently looking into the possibilities for hosting it.
5. Start research committee for ISA

Cécile Vermot will explore possibilities to start a research committee on emotions within the ISA. She will check out the rules and contact people in other countries.
6. Other

Åsa Wettergren, Mary Holmes, Jochen Kleres and Nathan Manning are working to start a new journal: 'Emotions and Society'.

## PROGRAM

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5<sup>th</sup> Midterm Conference of the ESA RN Sociology of Emotions

11-13 October 2012

*Jointly organized with the  
Cluster of Excellence "Languages of Emotion" at Freie Universität,  
Berlin  
and Center for the History of Emotions, Max Planck Institute for Hu-  
man Development, Berlin*

conference venue: MPI for Human Development, Lentzeallee 94,  
Berlin

### THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER

9.30-12.00     **Emotions in Intimate Life**  
chair: *Benno Gammerl*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Natàlia Cantó-Milà, Francesc Núñez, and Swen Seebach*: 'Every line  
you write, every word you (don't) say, I'll be watching you'.  
Emotions and Power in Lovers' Technologically Mediated  
Communication.

*Rebecca Chiyoko King-O'Riain*: The Heart (or Skype?) is a Bridge That  
Can Span the Deepest Oceans: Mixed International Couples  
and Families Loving from Afar

*Inés Brock*: Homosexuals (LG) and their Siblings in the Family – An  
Overview of Power and Emotions Involved

*Javiera Cienfuegos*: The Role of Emotions in Transnational Family  
Bonds

**12.00-13.00**     **lunch break** (self-catering, you can buy lunch in the  
institute's cafeteria)

**13.00-15.30**     **Emotion Theories**  
chair: *Charlotte Bloch*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Helmut Kuzmics*: Social Habitus, Social Situations and the Role of  
Emotions. Comparing Elias and Collins on Violence

*Cas Wouters*: The Theory of Civilizing Processes Summarized in Seven Universally Applicable Balances

*Sylvia Terpe, Helmut Thome*: How does the Experience of (a Change in) Value Commitments Feel Like?

*Caroline Braunmühl*: The Politics of Emotion and the Ethics of How We Affect the World: Haltung as A Mediating Concept-Metaphor

*Mikko Salmela*: Collective Emotions and Rational Warrant

**15.30-16.00 coffee break**

**16.00-17.30 two parallel panels in large and small lecture hall:**

**1. Post-Atrocities Emotions**

chair: *Nicolas Demertzis*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Helena Flam*: The Emergence of a Transnational Post-atrocity Emotional Regime

*Katarina Ristic*: Perpetrators' Emotions and Transitional Justice in former Yugoslavia

*Estela Schindel*: Haunted Emotions Around Terror Sites: Assemblages of Ruins, Ghosts, and Discourse in Argentina's Former Detention Camps.

**2. Law**

chair: *Åsa Wettergren*, room: *small lecture hall*

*Carolin Stenz*: True Emotion and False Cognition? - Polygraphy in Germany in the 1990s

*Katarzyna Chajbos*: Emotions in the Profession of Judge. The Role of Feelings in the Performance of the Occupation of High Social Status

*Maciej Wojciechowski*: Empathy of a Judge - What Can We Do About it?

**17.30-19.00 three parallel panel sessions in large and small lecture hall and in room 111**

chair: *Bettina Hitzer*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Alena Minchenia*: Shame of Belonging: Belarusian Citizens Between 'Authoritarianism' and 'Democracy'

*Monika Verbalyte*: The Role of Person-Politician-Drama in the Political Emotion Management: How Showing One's Weakness Could Increase One's Power

*Bogna Dowgiallo*: Researching the Ephemeral: Presentation of a Research Technique to Study Emotions Connected with Clothing.  
*Marie Schubenz*: Solidarity as Feeling and Practice in Areas of Conflict in the 1970s/80s

chair: *Gian Marco Vidor*, room: *small lecture hall*

*Pierre-Frédéric Weber*: Constructing Cultures of Fear in International Relations. A Contribution to Historical Sociology of Emotions

*Madeleine Rungius*: Feeling Rules and Interaction Ritual Chains in Post-genocide Rwanda: A Practical Application of Arlie Hochschild's and Randall Collin's Theory

*Yvonne Albrecht*: The Migrant as Emotional Worker – Presentation of a Case Study

**19:30**            **pre-launch reception for “New Perspectives on Emotions in Finance” (ed. J. Pixley)**, drinks and snacks sponsored by Routledge. Everybody is welcome! after that: **dinner** for those interested  
location: “*Michelangelo*,” see separate information sheet

#### **FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER**

**9.30-11.30**        **two parallel panels in large and small lecture hall:**

##### **1. Specific Emotions**

chair: *Sylvia Terpe*, room: *small lecture hall*

*Eva Köppen*: Is Empathy Even an Emotion? Or: The Social Analysis of Empathy

*Peter van der Graaf*: Feeling at Home and Habitus

*Nina Jakoby*: Grief. The Emotion of Loss

##### **2. Emergence and Reproduction of Groups and Collectivities**

chair: *Katharina Scherke*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Rüdiger Zill*: Celebrations, Festivities, Feasts and their Emotional Functions

*Nils Meise*: Shared Collective Emotions?: The Funeral of Robert Enke as a Public Event

*Marta Kozłowska, Manuela Beyer, Christian von Scheve, Sven Ismer*  
The Impact of Collective Emotions on National Identification: A Quasi Experiment around the FIFA World Cup 2010

*Veronika Zink*: The Socio-Emotional Logic of Adoration

**11.30-12.30**    **lunch break (self-catering, you can buy lunch in the institute's cafeteria)**

**12.30-14.30**    **two parallel panels in large and small lecture hall:**

**1. Emotion, Power, Organizations**

chair: *Anja Laukötter*, room: *small lecture hall*

*Charlotte Bloch*: Bullying in the Workplace: Interactional Dynamics Between Perpetrators, Witnesses and Victims

*Stina Bergman Blix*: Facilitating Emotion Management. Organizational and Individual Strategies in the Theatre

*Michalinos Zembylas*: Memorial Ceremonies in Schools: Analyzing the Entanglement of Emotions and Power

*Sabine Haring*: "Comradeship" in the Habsburg Army during World War One. The Sociology of Emotions' Perspective

**2. Finance**

chair: *Helmut Kuzmics*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Konstanze Senge*: The Influence of Feelings on Decision Making on the Financial Markets

*Alexandros-Andreas Kyrtis*: Immoral panic and the Management of Emotions in the Securities Business Before and After the Credit-Crunch

*Markus Lange*: Trading with Payment Promises in Investment Banking Between Emotions and Calculations

*Jocelyn Pixley*: Developments in Theory of Emotions and Money: Assessing Finance's Betrayal and Keynesian Proposals.

**14.30-14.45**    **coffee break**

**14.45-16.45**    **two parallel panels in large and small lecture hall:**

**1. Migration**

chair: *Sven Ismer*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Åsa Wettergren*: Protecting and Repairing the Self. Forced Migrants' Emotion Work.

*Oktay Aktan*: Social Spaces of Fluctuating Emotions: Migrant Body in the Amateur Football Leagues in Berlin



H. *Julia Eksner*: Linguistic Affectivity and the Anti-Structural: Performing Aggression with ‘Tough Talk’ among German Turkish Working-Class Males in Berlin-Kreuzberg

*Zaira Jagudina*: Theorizing Affect and Constitution of Subjectivities: A Case of the Immigrant Women Becoming Doula & Culture-Interpreter in Sweden

## **2. Methods**

chair: *Dagmar Ellerbrock*, room: *small lecture hall*

*Iveta Jurkane*: Dealing with Emotions During Fieldwork

*Katharina Scherke*: Ambiguous Indicators for Emotions: Laughter and Crying

*Denise Van Dam, Jean Nizet*: Emotions : the Discovery of an Object and the Development of a Method

*Benno Gammerl*: Can you Feel your Research Results? How to Deal with and Gain Insights From Emotions Generated During Oral History Interviews

**16.45-17.00**    **break**

**17.00-19.00**    **General Discussion**

chair: *Daniel Schönplug*, room: *large lecture hall*

first part: Desiring Politics: Wanting More in the Age of Obama

keynote speaker: *Deborah Gould*, keynote discussant: *Cas Wouters*, followed by a general discussion

second part: The Past and Future of Emotions Research

keynote speaker: *Helmut Kuzmics*, followed by *Helena Flam*, *Åsa Wettergren*, *Margit Pernau*, *Bettina Hitzer*, *Jochen Kleres* and an open interdisciplinary discussion

**19.30**            **dinner at “Landauer”** for those interested, see separate information sheet

## **SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER**

**9.30-11.30**    **Protest/Social Movements/Civic Action**

chair: *Joachim Häberlen*, room: *large lecture hall*

*Nicolas Demertzis, Bettina Davou, Christoforos Vernardakis*: Critical Emotions in the Mid of the Crisis

*Klaus Neumann*: Sorry Books and Letters to Ali: Compassion and Civic Engagement in Australia

*Jenny Weggen*: Emotions in Third Sector Organisations in Germany –  
a Grounded Theory Study  
*Jochen Kleres*: Mapping Civic Action: Solidarity, Compassion, Pity

We kindly ask fee paying members of the ESA and of RN 11 to budget  
in an additional hour for the network's business meeting after the last  
session. Room: *large lecture hall*.